

April 3, 2023

Testimony on HB 639

Restrictions on Use - Solar Collector Systems

Dave Arndt of Baltimore MD supports HB 639

HB639 will make changes to clarify what are unreasonable restrictions on solar collector systems. The bill prohibits restrictions that would increase the cost of installing a solar collector system by at least 5% or that would reduce the efficiency of the solar collector system by at least 10% below the projected energy generation of the initially proposed system. The bill also provides that the owner of the solar collector system provide documentation prepared by an independent solar panel design specialist certified by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners and licensed in Maryland, showing that the restriction is unreasonable, to the satisfaction of a community association. The bill further provides that a community association may prohibit or impose reasonable restrictions on the installation of a solar collector system in the common area or common elements within the development served by the community association. Also, a community association may be authorized to install a solar collector system in the common area or common elements provided the installation is not otherwise prohibited by applicable law.

These are important technical changes to existing law that will clarify solar installation requirements for developments served by the community association. We recommend a FAVORABLE report for HB639 in committee.

I encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Thank you,

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